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GROWTH OF SELMER RANK IN NONABELIAN EXTENSIONS OF NUMBER FIELDS

BARRY MAZUR AND KARL RUBIN

ABSTRACT. Let p be an odd prime number, E an elliptic curve over a number field k , and F/k a Galois extension of degree twice a power of p . We study the \mathbf{Z}_p -corank $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F)$ of the p -power Selmer group of E over F . We obtain lower bounds for $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F)$, generalizing the results in [MR], which applied to dihedral extensions.

If K is the (unique) quadratic extension of k in F , $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F/K)$, G^+ is the subgroup of elements of G commuting with a choice of involution of F over k , and $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd, then we show that (under mild hypotheses) $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F) \geq [G : G^+]$.

As a very specific example of this, suppose A is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with a rational torsion point of order p , and without complex multiplication. If E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with good ordinary reduction at p , such that every prime where both E and A have bad reduction has odd order in \mathbf{F}_p^\times , and such that the negative of the conductor of E is not a square mod p , then there is a positive constant B , depending on A but not on E or n , such that $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/\mathbf{Q}(A[p^n])) \geq Bp^{2n}$ for every n .

INTRODUCTION

One of the goals in modern arithmetic is to understand the nature of *Mordell-Weil groups*—that is, of the groups of rational points—of elliptic curves over number fields. Often one tries to get at such problems indirectly, relying on standard conjectures. For example, instead of working with the Mordell-Weil groups themselves, one can study the corresponding *p-Selmer groups* for a choice of a prime number p , these p -Selmer groups having conjecturally the same rank as their Mordell-Weil counterpart. Also, by a (largely) conjectural analytic theory of L -functions attached to these elliptic curves, and a well-developed theory of local constants governing the expected functional equations of these L -functions, one obtains a very precise “heuristic” making it possible to predict some general features of Mordell-Weil groups.

Specifically, if k is a number field, F/k is a Galois extension, and η is an irreducible real character of $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$, this heuristic gives us a (conjectural, of course) prediction of the *parity* of the multiplicity of the character η in the $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ -representation space $E(F) \otimes \mathbf{C}$, and therefore also in the $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ -representation space of the p -Selmer vector spaces $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)$ for every p (see §1 for the definition of $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)$).

The classical parity conjecture, which predicts the parity of the dimension of $\mathcal{S}_p(E/k)$ in terms of the sign of the functional equation of $L(E/k, s)$, is a particular example of this general heuristic (applying it to the trivial character η). In the case

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$k = \mathbf{Q}$, for every elliptic curve E , Dokchitser and Dokchitser [DD] (extending work of Monsky [Mo], Nekovář [N1], and Kim [K]; see Theorem 1.3) have proved this form of the classical parity conjecture for all primes p .

In this paper we build on the results of [MR] to prove (unconditionally) another piece of this general heuristic, for irreducible real characters of $\text{Gal}(F/k)$ when $[F : k] = 2p^n$ with an odd prime p . Namely, suppose F/k is such an extension, and let K be the (unique) quadratic extension of k in F , so $G := \text{Gal}(F/K)$ is the Sylow- p subgroup of $\text{Gal}(F/k)$. Choose an involution $c \in \text{Gal}(F/k)$ lifting the nontrivial element of $\text{Gal}(K/k)$, and let $G^+ \subset G$ be the subgroup of elements commuting with c , i.e., fixed under conjugation by c . Our main result, Theorem 1.1, states that if E/k is an elliptic curve (satisfying some mild hypotheses) such that the \mathbf{Q}_p -dimension of $\mathcal{S}_p(E/K)$ is odd, then the $\mathbf{Q}_p[G]$ -module $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)$ contains a copy of the representation space $\mathbf{Q}_p[G/G^+]$, and thus has dimension at least $[G : G^+]$.

In the case where $\text{Gal}(F/K)$ is abelian, this result was proved in [MR], using what are sometimes referred to as *visibility techniques* for Selmer modules. We developed in [MR] the beginning of an arithmetic theory of ratios of local constants for pairs of irreducible real characters η, η' , that govern the difference in parity of the multiplicities of η and η' in p -Selmer. We expect that there will eventually be a much fuller arithmetic theory of (ratios of) local constants that parallels in every feature the current understanding of the analytic theory of (ratios of) local constants.

The present article extends the results of [MR] to the case where $\text{Gal}(F/K)$ is an arbitrary p -group, using nothing more than the elementary theory of representations of p -groups (plus our previous result).

See §2 below for several applications of this result. To give the flavor of these applications, consider A/k an elliptic curve (either equal to E or different) such that $A(K)$ contains the full subgroup $A[p]$ of p -torsion in A , and the action of $\text{Gal}(K/k)$ on $A[p]$ is via a nonscalar involution. For $n \geq 0$ let $F_n = k(A[p^n])$ and $G_n = \text{Gal}(F_n/K)$. We are now in the situation described above. Fix an involution $c \in \text{Gal}(F_n/k)$. Choosing a basis of $A[p^n]$ consisting of eigenvectors of c , we may view G_n as subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbf{Z}/p^n\mathbf{Z})$, and then G_n^+ is precisely the subgroup of diagonal matrices in G_n . By a well-known theorem of Serre, if A has no complex multiplications then the inverse limit of the G_n is open in $\text{GL}_2(\mathbf{Z}_p)$, so there is a $C \in \mathbf{Q}^+$ such that $[G_n : G_n^+] = Cp^{2n}$ for all large n . It follows from Theorem 1.1 (see Theorem 2.3 and Corollary 2.5) that if E/k is an elliptic curve satisfying the “mild hypotheses” of Theorem 1.1, and having odd p -Selmer rank over K , then the $\mathbf{Q}_p[G_n]$ -module $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F_n)$ contains a copy of $\mathbf{Q}_p[G_n/G_n^+]$ and therefore—if A doesn’t have complex multiplication—the p -Selmer rank over $k(A[p^n])$ is at least Cp^{2n} . The source of this Selmer rank is a mystery, but in certain cases work of Harris [Ha] explains a part of it. See Remark 2.4 for more about this and about other work [CFKS, G2] related to Theorem 2.3.

Our main result (Theorem 1.1) is stated in §1, and in §2 we give several applications and examples. In §3 and §4 we develop the representation theory of p -groups needed for the proof of Theorem 1.1 in §5.

1. SETTING AND MAIN THEOREM

Fix a quadratic extension K/k of number fields, an odd prime p and a finite Galois extension F of k containing K , such that $G := \text{Gal}(F/K)$ is a p -group. Fix

an element $c \in \text{Gal}(F/k)$ of order 2, and we will denote by $g \mapsto g^c := cgc$ the automorphism of G of order 2 induced by c . Let

$$G^+ := \{g \in G : g^c = g\}.$$

Fix also an elliptic curve E defined over k . If L is any finite extension of k we let $\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/L)$ denote the p -power Selmer group of E/L , which sits in an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow E(L) \otimes \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p \longrightarrow \text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/L) \longrightarrow \text{III}(E/L)[p^\infty] \longrightarrow 0$$

where III is the Shafarevich-Tate group. Let

$$\mathcal{S}_p(E/L) := \text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/L), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p) \otimes \mathbf{Q}_p,$$

and define the p -Selmer rank

$$\text{rk}_p(E/L) := \text{corank}_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/L) = \dim_{\mathbf{Q}_p} \mathcal{S}_p(E/L).$$

In this paper we will only deal with the Selmer rank, rather than the Mordell-Weil rank $\text{rank}_{\mathbf{Z}} E(L)$. However, if the Shafarevich-Tate conjecture that $\text{III}(E/L)[p^\infty]$ is finite is true, then $\text{rk}_p(E/L) = \text{rank}_{\mathbf{Z}} E(L)$.

The following is our main result, which will be proved in §5.

Theorem 1.1. *Suppose that:*

- *For every prime v of k where E has bad reduction, either v splits in K/k or v is unramified in F/K .*
- *For every prime v of k above p , at least one of the following conditions is satisfied:*
 - (a) *v splits in K/k ,*
 - (b) *E has good ordinary reduction at v ,*
 - (c) *E has good supersingular reduction at v , E is defined over $\mathbf{Q}_p \subset K_v$, K_v contains the unramified quadratic extension of \mathbf{Q}_p , and if $p = 3$ then $|E(\mathbf{F}_3)| = 4$.*

Then:

- (i) *If $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd, then the $\mathbf{Q}_p[G]$ -representation $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)$ contains a copy of $\mathbf{Q}_p[G/G^+]$, and in particular*

$$\text{rk}_p(E/F) \geq [G : G^+].$$

- (ii) *For every irreducible $\mathbf{Q}_p[G]$ -submodule ρ of $\mathbf{Q}_p[G/G^+]$, the multiplicity of ρ in $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)$ is congruent to $\text{rk}_p(E/K) \pmod{2}$.*

Remark 1.2. In order to apply Theorem 1.1, we need to know the parity of $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$. Let $\mathbf{n}_{E/k}$ denote the conductor (ideal) of E/k , let $\chi_{K/k}$ be the quadratic character of K/k , and let $h_{K/k}$ be the number of archimedean primes of k that ramify in K . A standard calculation (see for example Proposition 10 of [Ro1]) shows that if $\mathbf{n}_{E/k}$ is prime to the conductor of K/k , then the global root number of E/K is $(-1)^{h_{K/k}} \chi_{K/k}(\mathbf{n}_{E/k})$. Thus in this case the parity conjecture for the p -power Selmer group takes a particularly concrete form, and predicts that

$$\text{rk}_p(E/K) \text{ is odd if and only if } \chi_{K/k}(\mathbf{n}_{E/k}) = (-1)^{h_{K/k}+1}. \quad (1.1)$$

This is known to be true in certain cases. For example, when $k = \mathbf{Q}$, (1.1) is the following theorem.

Theorem 1.3 (Dokchitser and Dokchitser [DD], Nekovář [N1], Kim [K]). *Suppose E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} , and K is a quadratic field. Let χ_K be the quadratic Dirichlet character of K/\mathbf{Q} , and N_E the conductor of E . Suppose $\chi_K(N_E) \neq 0$. Then $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd if and only if $\chi_K(-N_E) = -1$.*

Proof. The Selmer parity conjecture for E/\mathbf{Q} was proved for potentially ordinary primes p by Nekovář (Corollary 12.2.10 of [N2], see also [N1]), for good supersingular primes $p > 3$ by Kim (Theorem 4.30 of [K]), and finally for all primes p by Dokchitser and Dokchitser (Theorem 1.4 of [DD]). The theorem follows easily from this and the formula above for the global root number of E/K . \square

Further, (1.1) was proved by Nekovář (Corollary 12.2.10 of [N2]) if k is totally real, under some additional assumptions on E ; see also the forthcoming work [N3].

Remark 1.4. If F/k is abelian, then $g^c = g$ for every $g \in G$, so $G^+ = G$. In this case Theorem 1.1(i) only allows us to conclude that $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F) \geq 1$, which already follows directly from our assumption that $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd. Theorem 1.1(ii) is similarly vacuous in this case.

Remark 1.5. If F/k is dihedral, i.e., F/K is abelian and $g^c = g^{-1}$ for every $g \in G$, then $G^+ = \{1\}$. In this case Theorem 1.1 is Theorem 7.1 (see also Theorem 7.2) of [MR], and the conclusion of (i) is that $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F) \geq [F : K]$.

We will prove Theorem 1.1 in §5 below by reducing to the case where F/k is dihedral.

Remark 1.6. Although we will not make use of it, we now sketch the connection between Theorem 1.1 and the parity heuristic discussed in the introduction.

The character of the $\mathbf{C}[G]$ -representation $\mathbf{C}[G/G^+]$ decomposes into a sum of distinct irreducible characters $\sum_{\chi \in \Xi_G} \chi$, where Ξ_G is given by Definition 4.2 below (see Lemma 4.4(i)). One can show using Definition 4.2 that for every nontrivial $\chi \in \Xi_G$, the induced character $\mathrm{Ind}_k^K \chi$ is irreducible and real-valued, and that all irreducible real characters of $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ whose restriction to $\mathrm{Gal}(F/K)$ is nontrivial arise in this way.

Under the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1, it follows from the statement and proof of Proposition 10 of [Ro1] applied to the representations $\mathrm{Ind}_k^K \chi$ that the root numbers $w_{E/K, \chi} = \pm 1$ are independent of $\chi \in \Xi_G$. Thus the parity heuristic predicts that the multiplicity of every $\chi \in \Xi_G$ has the same parity as that of the trivial character, i.e., the same parity as $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/K)$. Theorem 1.1 confirms this prediction.

Remark 1.7. Using the techniques of this paper and of [MR], it should be possible to relax the requirement that F/K be a p -extension in Theorem 1.1, if we assume:

Conjecture 1.8. *For every abelian variety A/K , the parity of $\mathrm{rk}_p(A/K)$ is independent of p .*

Namely, if $[F : K]$ is odd and $\mathrm{Gal}(F/K)$ is nilpotent, and we assume Conjecture 1.8, then we expect that the methods of this paper and [MR] can be used to prove that the conclusions of Theorem 1.1 still hold (where the hypothesis on primes v dividing p is assumed to hold for all v dividing $[F : K]$). Note that Conjecture 1.8 is a consequence of the Shafarevich-Tate conjecture, since the latter implies that $\mathrm{rk}_p(A/K) = \mathrm{rank}_{\mathbf{Z}} A(K)$ is independent of p .

It would be interesting to extend Theorem 1.1 to all odd-order Galois extensions F/K .

2. APPLICATIONS

Fix an odd prime p . In this section we apply Theorem 1.1 to extensions F/K that:

- are cut out by Galois representations to p -adic Lie groups (§2.1), or
- have free pro- p Galois groups (§2.2), or
- are of infinite degree and everywhere unramified (§2.3).

In the final subsection (§2.4) we describe a stronger Iwasawa-theoretic version of Theorem 1.1 that holds under additional hypotheses.

First we need the following lemma.

Lemma 2.1. *Suppose G is a pro- p group, $c \in \text{Aut}(G)$ has order 2, and H is a closed normal subgroup of G stable under c . Let G^+ , H^+ , and $(G/H)^+$ denote the respective subgroups of elements fixed by c . Then the natural map*

$$G^+/H^+ \longrightarrow (G/H)^+$$

is an isomorphism.

Proof. Since p is odd, this follows from the (nonabelian) cohomology of the group $\{1, c\}$ acting on the short exact sequence $1 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow G/H \rightarrow 1$. \square

2.1. p -adic representations. For $d \geq 1$ and commutative rings R , let $\text{PGL}_d(R)$ denote the group of R -valued points of the $d \times d$ projective linear group. When $R = \mathbf{Z}_p$, consider the natural filtration

$$\text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}_p) \supset \mathcal{H}_1 \supset \mathcal{H}_2 \supset \cdots \supset \mathcal{H}_n \supset \cdots$$

where for $n \geq 1$, \mathcal{H}_n is the kernel of the projection $\text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}_p) \twoheadrightarrow \text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}/p^n\mathbf{Z})$. Note that every \mathcal{H}_n is an open, normal, pro- p Lie subgroup of $\text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}_p)$.

If $\mathcal{G} \subset \text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}_p)$ is any closed subgroup then \mathcal{G} is a p -adic Lie group (see [L], especially §III.3) and $\dim(\mathcal{G}) \leq \dim(\text{PGL}_d) = d^2 - 1$. There is a natural filtration

$$\mathcal{G} \supset \mathcal{G}_0 \supset \mathcal{G}_1 \supset \mathcal{G}_2 \supset \cdots \supset \mathcal{G}_n \supset \cdots$$

where \mathcal{G}_0 is the (unique) maximal normal pro- p subgroup of \mathcal{G} , and $\mathcal{G}_n := \mathcal{H}_n \cap \mathcal{G}$ for $n \geq 1$. For every n , the group \mathcal{G}_n is an open, normal, pro- p Lie subgroup of \mathcal{G} . For $n \geq 1$, $\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{G}_n$ is naturally identified with a subgroup of $\text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}/p^n\mathbf{Z})$, and there is a positive rational number b such that for all sufficiently large n ,

$$[\mathcal{G} : \mathcal{G}_n] = b \cdot p^{n \dim(\mathcal{G})} \quad (2.1)$$

(see for example §III.3.1 of [L]).

Now fix a number field k_0 , a (nontrivial) complex conjugation $c \in \text{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0)$ (so k_0 has at least one real embedding), and a continuous projective representation

$$\rho : \text{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0) \longrightarrow \text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}_p)$$

such that $\rho(c) \neq 1$. Let $\mathcal{G} := \rho(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0)) \subset \text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}_p)$, and define a tower of field extensions

$$k_0 \subset k \subset K := F_0 \subset F_1 \subset \cdots \subset F_n \subset \cdots$$

where F_n is the fixed field of $\rho^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_n)$ and k is the fixed field of c in $K = F_0$. Since \mathcal{G}_0 is a pro- p group and $\rho(c) \neq 1$, we see that $c \notin \mathcal{G}_0$ so K/k is quadratic. For every $n \geq 1$, F_n/k is Galois and the representation ρ induces an injection

$$\rho_n : \text{Gal}(F_n/K) \cong \mathcal{G}_0/\mathcal{G}_n \subset \mathcal{H}_0/\mathcal{H}_n \subset \text{PGL}_d(\mathbf{Z}/p^n\mathbf{Z}) \quad (2.2)$$

so $\text{Gal}(F_n/K)$ is a p -group.

Let $\mathcal{G}^+ \subset \mathcal{G}$ be the (p -adic Lie) subgroup of elements that commute with c .

Theorem 2.2. *With ρ as above, suppose that E is an elliptic curve over k and $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd. Suppose further that:*

- *for every prime of k above p , either E has good ordinary reduction at v or v splits in K/k ,*
- *for every prime v of k where E has bad reduction, either ρ is unramified at v or v splits in K/k .*

Then there is a positive rational number $B = B(\rho)$ (independent of n and E) such that for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F_n) \geq Bp^{n(\dim(\mathcal{G}) - \dim(\mathcal{G}^+))}.$$

Proof. Let $G_n := \mathrm{Gal}(F_n/K)$. The hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 all hold for $F_n/K/k$, so we conclude from that theorem that

$$\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F_n) \geq [G_n : G_n^+].$$

By (2.2) we have $G_n \cong \mathcal{G}_0/\mathcal{G}_n$, and by Lemma 2.1 we also have $G_n^+ \cong \mathcal{G}_0^+/\mathcal{G}_n^+$. Thus by (2.1) there are positive rational numbers b, b_+ such that

$$|G_n| = b \cdot p^{n \dim(\mathcal{G})}, \quad |G_n^+| = b_+ \cdot p^{n \dim(\mathcal{G}^+)}$$

for all sufficiently large n . The theorem follows with $B = b/b_+$. \square

If A is an abelian variety over k_0 , then the action of $\mathrm{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0)$ on the p -adic Tate module of A induces (after choosing a basis) a projective representation $\mathrm{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0) \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}_{2d}(\mathbf{Z}_p)$. With this representation the construction above gives a tower of number fields $F_n \subset k_0(A[p^n])$.

As an application of Theorem 2.2 we have the following result.

Theorem 2.3. *Suppose k_0 is a number field and $c \in \mathrm{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0)$ is a complex conjugation. Suppose A is an abelian variety of dimension d over k_0 , with d odd, or $d = 2$, or $d = 6$, and $\mathrm{End}_{\bar{k}_0}(A) = \mathbf{Z}$. Let k , K , and F_n be as above.*

Suppose further that E is an elliptic curve over k , and

- *every prime of k above p where E does not have good ordinary reduction splits in K/k ,*
- *every prime of k where both E and A have bad reduction splits in K/k .*

If $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd, then there is a positive rational number $B = B(A)$ (independent of n and E) such that for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F_n) \geq Bp^{(d^2+d)n}.$$

Proof. Let $T_p(A)$ be the p -adic Tate module of A . Decompose

$$T_p(A) = T^+ \oplus T^-$$

where c acts on T^\pm by ± 1 . Fix a \mathbf{Z}_p -basis of $T_p(A)$ compatible with this decomposition, so that we obtain a p -adic representation giving the action of $\mathrm{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0)$ on $T_p(A)$

$$\rho : \mathrm{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/k_0) \longrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_{2d}(\mathbf{Z}_p) \longrightarrow \mathrm{PGL}_{2d}(\mathbf{Z}_p).$$

Then $\rho(c) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{I}_d & 0 \\ 0 & -\mathrm{I}_d \end{pmatrix}$, where I_d is the $d \times d$ identity matrix, and all the hypotheses of Theorem 2.2 hold with this ρ .

By a result of Serre (Theorem 3 of [Se2], and using the restriction on d), the group $\mathcal{G} = \rho(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}_0/K))$ is open in $\text{PGSp}_d(\mathbf{Z}_p)$, where PGSp_d is the image in PGL_{2d} of the group $\text{GSp}_d \subset \text{GL}_{2d}$ of symplectic similitudes. It follows that

$$\dim(\mathcal{G}) = \dim(\text{PGSp}_d) = \dim(\text{Sp}_d) = 2d^2 + d,$$

and another computation shows that $\dim(\mathcal{G}^+) = d^2$. Now the theorem follows from Theorem 2.2. \square

Remark 2.4. If A is an elliptic curve, so $d = 1$, then $\text{PGSp}_d = \text{PGL}_2$ has dimension 3, and the subgroup commuting with c is the subgroup of diagonal matrices in PGL_2 , which has dimension 1. The conclusion of Theorem 2.3 in this case is that $\text{rk}_p(E/F_n)$ grows at least like a constant times p^{2n} .

When A is an elliptic curve and $E = A$, related results under additional hypotheses have been obtained by other authors, including Coates, Fukaya, Kato, and Sujatha [CFKS] and Greenberg [G2].

When A is an elliptic curve, root number computations by Howe [Ho] in the case $E \neq A$, and Rohrlich [Ro2] in the case $E = A$, show that under suitable hypotheses the analytic rank of E/F_n grows at least like a constant times p^{2n} . The hypotheses of Theorem 2.3 put us in the simplest cases of these root number computations. It would be interesting to generalize Theorem 1.1, relaxing the hypotheses to include other cases covered by Rohrlich.

Harris [Ha] used “modular points” to show that under suitable hypotheses, and when $k_0 = \mathbf{Q}$ and $E = A$, $\text{rank}_{\mathbf{Z}} E(F_n)$ grows at least like a constant times p^n . Notably, Harris’ result is for the Mordell-Weil rank, not the Selmer rank, and Harris’ bound does not require the rank of $E(K)$ to be odd.

Let $G_{\mathbf{Q}} = \text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q})$.

Corollary 2.5. *Suppose A is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with a rational point of order p , and with no complex multiplication. Let $F_n \subset \mathbf{Q}(A[p^n])$ be as above. Suppose further that E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} , and*

- E has good ordinary reduction at p ,
- every prime where both E and A have bad reduction has odd order in \mathbf{F}_p^\times .

Let N_E be the conductor of E . If $-N_E$ is not a square mod p , then there is a positive rational number $B = B(A)$ (independent of n and E) such that for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\text{rk}_p(E/F_n) \geq Bp^{2n}.$$

Proof. Since A has a rational p -torsion point, we have $K = \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$ and $k = \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)^+$ in Theorem 2.3. If ℓ is a prime where both E and A have bad reduction, then the assumption that ℓ has odd order in \mathbf{F}_p^\times implies that ℓ splits in K/k .

Let L be the quadratic field contained in $\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$. The fact that $-N_E$ is not a square mod p ensures that $\chi_L(-N_E) = -1$. Thus $\text{rk}_p(E/L)$ is odd by Theorem 1.3, so $\text{rk}_p(E/\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p))$ is odd by Proposition 12.5.9.5(iv) or Lemma 12.11.2(v) of [N2]. Thus all the hypotheses of Theorem 2.3 hold (with $d = 1$), and the corollary follows. \square

Remark 2.6. If the image of the Galois representation on the Tate module $T_p(A)$ contains the kernel of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbf{Z}_p) \twoheadrightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbf{F}_p)$, then in the proof of Theorem 2.2 we

have $|G_n| = [\mathbf{Q}(A[p]) : \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)]p^{3n-3}$ and $|G_n^+| = p^{n-1}$, so in Corollary 2.5 we can take $B = [\mathbf{Q}(A[p]) : \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)]/p^2$, i.e.,

$$\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F_n) \geq [\mathbf{Q}(A[p]) : \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)]p^{2n-2}.$$

Remark 2.7. Since Corollary 2.5 requires A to have a rational point of order p , it will only provide examples with $p \leq 7$. However, one can easily produce analogous examples with large primes p by taking A to be an Eisenstein quotient of the jacobian of a modular curve, and considering the division fields $\mathbf{Q}(A[\mathfrak{P}^n])$, where \mathfrak{P} is the corresponding Eisenstein prime and p is the residue characteristic of \mathfrak{P} .

Example 2.8. Let A be the elliptic curve 91B2 in Cremona's tables [C]

$$A : y^2 + y = x^3 + x^2 + 13x + 42,$$

and $p = 3$. Then A has a rational point $(0, 6)$ of order 3, and one can check that the image of the 3-adic representation $G_{\mathbf{Q}} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbf{Z}_3)$ coincides with the kernel of reduction $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbf{Z}_3) \twoheadrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbf{F}_3)$.

Let $F_n \subset \mathbf{Q}(A[3^n])$ be as above. The only primes where A has bad reduction are 7 and 13, both of which are congruent to 1 (mod 3). Thus if E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with good ordinary reduction at 3, and the conductor N_E of E is congruent to 1 (mod 3), then by Corollary 2.5 and Remark 2.6, for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\mathrm{rk}_3(E/F_n) \geq 3^{2n-2}.$$

Example 2.9. Let A be the elliptic curve $X_0(11)$

$$A : y^2 + y = x^3 - x^2 - 10x - 20,$$

and $p = 5$. Then $(5, 5)$ is a rational point of order 5 in $A(\mathbf{Q})$.

Let $F_n \subset \mathbf{Q}(A[5^n])$ be as above. The only prime where A has bad reduction is 11, which is congruent to 1 (mod 5). Thus if E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with good ordinary reduction at 5, and the conductor N_E of E is 2 or 3 (mod 5), then by Corollary 2.5 there is a positive rational number B such that for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\mathrm{rk}_5(E/F_n) \geq B \cdot 5^{2n}.$$

Example 2.10. Let A be the elliptic curve

$$A : y^2 - 16255xy - 2080768y = x^3 - 2080768x^2,$$

of conductor $499547134 = 2 \cdot 127 \cdot 743 \cdot 2647$, and $p = 7$. Then $(0, 0)$ is a rational point of order 7 in $A(\mathbf{Q})$.

Let $F_n \subset \mathbf{Q}(A[7^n])$ be as above. The four primes where A has bad reduction all have odd order in \mathbf{F}_7^\times . Thus if E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with good ordinary reduction at 7, and the conductor N_E of E is 1, 2, or 4 (mod 7), then by Corollary 2.5 there is a positive rational number B such that for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\mathrm{rk}_7(E/F_n) \geq B \cdot 7^{2n}.$$

Remark 2.11. Note that Examples 2.8 and 2.10 apply in particular to the curve $E = A$, while Example 2.9 does not. In fact, when $p = 5$ we cannot have $E = A$ in Corollary 2.5, because if every prime where A has bad reduction has odd order in \mathbf{F}_5^\times , then the conductor of A is a square mod 5. This is consistent with Rohrlich's results on root numbers [Ro2].

2.2. Free pro- p extensions.

Definition 2.12. If K is a number field, let $K^{\{p\}}$ denote the maximal pro- p Galois extension of K unramified outside of primes above p , and let $r_2(K)$ denote the number of complex places of K . We say that K is p -rational if $\text{Gal}(K^{\{p\}}/K)$ is a free pro- p group on $r_2(K) + 1$ generators.

The following result gives examples of p -rational fields.

Theorem 2.13. (i) If $p \geq 5$ and K is an imaginary quadratic field of class number prime to p , or if $K = \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$ and p is regular, then K is p -rational.
(ii) If K is p -rational and K' is a finite extension of K in $K^{\{p\}}$, then K' is p -rational.

Proof. See for example [MN], p. 163 and Théorème 3.7. \square

Proposition 2.14. Suppose K/k is a quadratic extension of number fields, and K is p -rational. Fix $c \in \text{Gal}(K^{\{p\}}/k)$ of order 2, and let c act on $\text{Gal}(K^{\{p\}}/K)$ by conjugation. Then we can choose generators $\{x_1, \dots, x_{r_2(K)+1}, y_1, \dots, y_{r_2(K)-r_2(k)}\}$ of the free pro- p group $\text{Gal}(K^{\{p\}}/K)$ such that $x_i^c = x_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq r_2(k) + 1$ and $y_j^c = y_j^{-1}$ for $1 \leq j \leq r_2(K) - r_2(k)$.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{G} = \text{Gal}(K^{\{p\}}/K)$, and let Γ be the maximal abelian quotient of \mathcal{G} , so Γ is free of rank $r_2(K) + 1$ over \mathbf{Z}_p . Then c acts on Γ , and by class field theory $\text{rank}_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \Gamma^+ \geq r_2(k) + 1$ and $\text{rank}_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \Gamma^- \geq r_2(K) - r_2(k)$, where $\Gamma^\pm = \{g \in \Gamma : g^c = g^{\pm 1}\}$. Therefore Γ^+ and Γ^- are free over \mathbf{Z}_p of rank $r_2(k) + 1$ and $r_2(K) - r_2(k)$, respectively.

The restriction map $\mathcal{G}^+ \rightarrow \Gamma^+$ is surjective by Lemma 2.1, so we can choose $x_1, \dots, x_{r_2(k)+1} \in \mathcal{G}^+$ that restrict to a \mathbf{Z}_p -basis of Γ^+ . We can also choose $y_1, \dots, y_{r_2(K)-r_2(k)} \in \mathcal{G}$ whose images in Γ generate Γ^- . Replacing y_j by $y_j^{-1}y_j^c$, we may suppose that each $y_j \in \mathcal{G}^-$. Then the x_i and y_j generate the maximal abelian quotient of \mathcal{G} , so an induction argument shows that they (topologically) generate \mathcal{G} . This proves the proposition. \square

For example, suppose $k = \mathbf{Q}$, $p \geq 5$, and K is an imaginary quadratic field of class number prime to p . Then by Theorem 2.13 and Proposition 2.14, $\text{Gal}(K^{\{p\}}/K)$ is a free pro- p group on generators x, y where $x^c = x$ and $y^c = y^{-1}$. If E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} such that $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd and at least one of the following holds:

- p splits in K/\mathbf{Q} ,
- E has good ordinary reduction at p , or
- E has good reduction at p and p is unramified in K ,

then we can use Theorem 1.1 to obtain lower bounds on $\text{rk}_p(E/F)$ for finite extensions F of K in $K^{\{p\}}$, Galois over \mathbf{Q} .

Similarly, suppose p is a regular prime, $k = \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)^+$, and $K = \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$. Then by Theorem 2.13 and Proposition 2.14, $\text{Gal}(K^{\{p\}}/K)$ is a free pro- p group with generators $\{x, y_1, \dots, y_{(p-1)/2}\}$ where $x^c = x$ and $y_i^c = y_i^{-1}$ for every i . If E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} such that $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd, and E has good ordinary reduction at p , then we can use Theorem 1.1 to obtain lower bounds on $\text{rk}_p(E/F)$ for finite extensions F of K in $K^{\{p\}}$, Galois over k .

Example 2.15. Suppose $p \geq 5$, and K is an imaginary quadratic field of class number and discriminant prime to p . Let $F_0 = K$, and for every $n \geq 0$ let F_{n+1} be the maximal abelian extension of F_n of exponent p in $K^{\{p\}}$. Then F_n is Galois over \mathbf{Q} , and we let $G_n = \text{Gal}(F_n/K)$.

Proposition 2.16. *With setting and notation as above, $\cup_n F_n = K^{\{p\}}$ and we have the recursive formulas for every $n \geq 0$*

- (i) $|G_{n+1}| = p^{|G_n|+1} \cdot |G_n|$,
- (ii) $|G_{n+1}^+| = p^{(|G_n| - |G_n^+|)/2 + 1} \cdot |G_n^+|$,
- (iii) $[G_{n+1} : G_{n+1}^+] = p^{(|G_n| + |G_n^+|)/2} \cdot [G_n : G_n^+]$.

Proof. That $\cup_n F_n = K^{\{p\}}$ follows simply from the fact that every p -group is solvable.

By Theorem 2.13(i), K is p -rational, so by Theorem 2.13(ii), every F_n is p -rational. Therefore $[F_{n+1} : F_n] = p^{|G_n|+1}$, and $|G_{n+1}|/|G_n| = [F_{n+1} : F_n]$ so (i) follows.

Fix n , let \mathcal{O} be the ring of integers of F_n , and let $H = \text{Gal}(F_n/\mathbf{Q})$ and C the subgroup $\{1, c\} \subset H$. Since F_n is p -rational, class field theory gives an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times \otimes \mathbf{F}_p \longrightarrow (\mathcal{O} \otimes \mathbf{Z}_p)^\times \otimes \mathbf{F}_p \longrightarrow \text{Gal}(F_{n+1}/F_n) \longrightarrow 0$$

and Dirichlet's unit theorem gives an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times \otimes \mathbf{F}_p \longrightarrow \mathbf{F}_p[H/C] \longrightarrow \mathbf{F}_p \longrightarrow 0.$$

Taking c -invariants of all of these \mathbf{F}_p -vector spaces gives

$$\dim_{\mathbf{F}_p} \text{Gal}(F_{n+1}/F_n)^+ = |G_n| + 1 - \dim_{\mathbf{F}_p} \mathbf{F}_p[H/C]^+.$$

For $g \in G_n$, c fixes the coset gC if and only if $g \in G_n^+$, so

$$\dim_{\mathbf{F}_p} \mathbf{F}_p[H/C]^+ = |G_n^+| + \frac{|G_n| - |G_n^+|}{2} = \frac{|G_n| + |G_n^+|}{2}.$$

This proves (ii), and (iii) follows from (i) and (ii). \square

Let χ_K be the quadratic character of K/\mathbf{Q} .

Theorem 2.17. *With notation as above, let E be an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with good reduction at p , and such that $\chi_K(N_E) = 1$, where N_E is the conductor of E . Then $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F_n)$ contains a copy of $\mathbf{Q}_p[G_n/G_n^+]$, and $\text{rk}_p(E/F_n) \geq \sqrt{[F_n : K]}$.*

Proof. Since $\chi_K(N_E) = 1$, Theorem 1.3 shows that $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd. All the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 hold. From Proposition 2.16(ii) and (iii) we see easily by induction that $[G_n : G_n^+] \geq |G_n^+|$, so $[G_n : G_n^+] \geq \sqrt{|G_n|}$. Now the theorem follows directly from Theorem 1.1(i). \square

2.3. p -Hilbert class field towers. (The authors thank Nigel Boston for suggesting this application of Theorem 1.1.) Fix an imaginary quadratic field K of discriminant prime to p . Let $H_0 = K$ and for every $n \geq 1$ let H_n be the p -Hilbert class field of H_{n-1} (i.e., the maximal unramified abelian p -extension of H_{n-1}), and $H_\infty = \cup_n H_n$.

For every $n \geq 0$, H_n/\mathbf{Q} is Galois and H_n/K is a p -extension. We will apply Theorem 1.1(i) in this setting. Let $G_n = \text{Gal}(H_n/K)$ for $1 \leq n \leq \infty$.

Lemma 2.18. *Suppose that the p -Hilbert class field tower H_∞/K is infinite. Then*

$$|G_n^+| = \prod_{\substack{2 \leq i \leq n \\ i \text{ even}}} [H_i : H_{i-1}].$$

Proof. Let Γ_n denote the subgroup $\text{Gal}(H_n/H_{n-1})$ of G_n , so $G_{n-1} = G_n/\Gamma_n$. For every $n > 0$, the automorphism $g \mapsto g^c$ preserves H_n , so Lemma 2.1 shows that

$$|G_n^+| = |\Gamma_n^+| \cdot |G_{n-1}^+|.$$

For every n and i , $\text{Gal}(H_n/H_i)$ is the i -th group $G_n^{(i)}$ in the derived series of G_n , i.e., $G_n^{(0)} = G_n$ and $G_n^{(j)}$ is the commutator subgroup of $G_n^{(j-1)}$. Thus $\Gamma_n = G_n^{(n-1)}$, so Lemma 2 of [KV] shows that $\Gamma_n^+ = \Gamma_n$ if n is even, and $\Gamma_n^+ = \{1\}$ if n is odd. Now the lemma follows easily by induction. \square

Let χ_K denote the quadratic Dirichlet character attached to K/\mathbf{Q} .

Theorem 2.19. *Suppose that the p -Hilbert class field tower H_∞/K is infinite, and E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with conductor N_E prime to p . Suppose further that either E has good ordinary reduction at p , or p is unramified in K/\mathbf{Q} and $p > 3$.*

If $\chi_K(N_E) = 1$ then $\text{rk}_p(E/H_n)$ is unbounded as n goes to infinity.

Proof. If $\chi_K(N_E) = 1$, then Theorem 1.3 shows that $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd. Since H_n/K is unramified, we can apply Theorem 1.1(i) to conclude that

$$\text{rk}_p(E/H_n) \geq [G_n : G_n^+].$$

By Lemma 2.18, $[G_n : G_n^+] = \prod_{i \leq n, i \text{ odd}} [H_i : H_{i-1}]$. If H_∞/K is infinite, then $[H_i : H_{i-1}] > 1$ for every i , and the theorem follows. \square

Example 2.20. Let $p = 3$ and $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-4019207})$. The ideal class group of K is $(\mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z})^2 \times \mathbf{Z}/9\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/23\mathbf{Z}$. By Theorem 4.3 of [Sc], it follows that H_∞/K is infinite. Further 3 splits in K/\mathbf{Q} , so we can apply Theorem 2.19 to conclude that if E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} with good ordinary reduction at 3, and whose conductor is a square modulo (the prime) 4019207, then $\text{rk}_3(E/H_n)$ goes to infinity.

Example 2.21. Let $p = 5$ and $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-51213139})$. The ideal class group of K is $\mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z} \times (\mathbf{Z}/5\mathbf{Z})^2 \times \mathbf{Z}/25\mathbf{Z}$. By Theorem 4.3 of [Sc], it follows that H_∞/K is infinite. Further 5 splits in K/\mathbf{Q} , so we can apply Theorem 2.19 to conclude that if E is an elliptic curve over \mathbf{Q} whose conductor N_E is prime to 5 and is a square modulo (the prime) 51213139, then $\text{rk}_5(E/H_n)$ goes to infinity.

2.4. Cyclic Selmer modules. Suppose K/k is a quadratic extension of number fields, F/K is a (possibly infinite) pro- p extension, and F/k is Galois. Let $G = \text{Gal}(F/K)$ and

$$\Lambda_G := \mathbf{Z}_p[[G]] = \varprojlim \mathbf{Z}_p[G/H]$$

where H runs through open normal subgroups of G . Combining Theorem 1.1(i) with a control theorem of Greenberg [G1] we can prove the following.

Theorem 2.22. *Suppose E/k is an elliptic curve and:*

- $\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/K) \cong \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p$,
- $E(K)[p] = 0$,
- E has good ordinary reduction at all primes of k above p ,
- for every prime w of K above p , with residue field \mathbf{F}_w , $E(\mathbf{F}_w)[p] = 0$,

- for every prime v of k where E has bad reduction, either v splits in K/k or v is unramified in F/K ,
- for every prime w of K that ramifies in F/K , or where E has bad reduction, $E(K_w)[p] = 0$.

Then $\text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p)$ is a cyclic Λ_G -module, and for every open subgroup H of G that is normal in $\text{Gal}(F/k)$ there is a (non-canonical) surjection

$$\text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p) \otimes_{\Lambda_G} \mathbf{Q}_p[G/H] \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p[G/HG^+].$$

Proof. If H is an open normal subgroup of G , let \mathcal{I}_H denote the closed two-sided ideal of Λ_G that is the kernel of the natural ring homomorphism

$$\Lambda_G \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{Z}_p[G/H].$$

Let $X = \text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p)$. By Proposition 5.6 of [G1], the restriction map induces an isomorphism $\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/K) \cong \text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F)^G$. Hence

$$X/\mathcal{I}_G X \cong \text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F)^G, \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p) = \text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/K), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p) \cong \mathbf{Z}_p$$

so by Nakayama's Lemma, X is a cyclic Λ_G -module.

Suppose H is an open subgroup of G , normal in $\text{Gal}(F/k)$. By Proposition 5.6 of [G1] we have

$$X \otimes_{\Lambda_G} \mathbf{Z}_p[G/H] \cong X/\mathcal{I}_H X \cong \text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F^H), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p),$$

and by Theorem 1.1(i) and Lemma 2.1 we have a map with finite cokernel

$$\text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F^H), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p) \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_p[(G/H)/(G/H)^+] = \mathbf{Z}_p[G/HG^+].$$

Tensoring the composition $X \otimes_{\Lambda_G} \mathbf{Z}_p[G/H] \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_p[G/HG^+]$ with \mathbf{Q}_p gives the desired surjection $X \otimes_{\Lambda_G} \mathbf{Q}_p[G/H] \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p[G/HG^+]$. \square

Example 2.23. Let $k = \mathbf{Q}$, $p = 3$, and let A be the elliptic curve 91B2 of Example 2.8. Let F be the fixed field of the kernel of the p -adic representation

$$\text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(A[3^\infty]) \rightarrow \text{PGL}_2(\mathbf{Z}_3).$$

As in Example 2.8, we have $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, $G := \text{Gal}(F/K)$ is identified with the subgroup of matrices congruent to 1 (mod 3) in $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbf{Z}_3)$, and G^+ is the subgroup of diagonal matrices in G .

Suppose E is 43A1 : $y^2 + y = x^3 + x^2$. Then the hypotheses of Theorem 2.22 hold for E , so $\text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{3^\infty}(E/F), \mathbf{Q}_3/\mathbf{Z}_3)$ is a cyclic Λ_G -module and for every open subgroup H of G whose fixed field is Galois over \mathbf{Q} , there is a surjection

$$\text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{3^\infty}(E/F), \mathbf{Q}_3/\mathbf{Z}_3) \otimes_{\Lambda_G} \mathbf{Q}_3[G/H] \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_3[G/HG^+].$$

Remark 2.24. Suppose $G = \text{Gal}(F/K)$ is an open subgroup of $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbf{Z}_p)$. Although we have many such examples where Theorem 2.22 applies, and therefore many examples where the Λ_G -module $\text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p)$ is cyclic, in *no* instance do we—at present—have a precise determination of this Selmer module. It would be interesting to find even one case where this cyclic Selmer Λ_G -module can be computed.

In particular, are there examples where $\text{Hom}(\text{Sel}_{p^\infty}(E/F), \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_p[[G/G^+]]$?

3. ODD-ORDER GROUPS WITH AN AUTOMORPHISM OF ORDER 2

The key ingredient in the proof of Theorem 1.1 is Theorem 7.2 of [MR], which is the “dihedral case” of Theorem 1.1; we will use pure group theory to reduce the general case to the dihedral case.

If G is a group, we will write $H \leq G$ (resp., $H < G$) to mean that H is a subgroup (resp., proper subgroup) of G .

Suppose that G is a finite group of odd order, and $c : G \rightarrow G$ is an automorphism of order 2. Let G^+ be the subgroup $\{g \in G : g^c = g\}$ and let G^- the subset $\{g \in G : g^c = g^{-1}\}$.

Lemma 3.1. $|G| = |G^+| \cdot |G^-|$, and $G = G^+ \cdot G^- = G^- \cdot G^+$.

Proof. Consider the (set) map $\eta : G \rightarrow G$ defined by $\eta(g) = g(g^c)^{-1}$. It is straightforward to verify that the image of η is contained in G^- , and $\eta(g) = \eta(h)$ if and only if $h \in gG^+$. In addition, if $g \in G^-$ then $\eta(g) = g^2$, and since p is odd the map $g \mapsto g^2$ from G^- to itself is bijective. Hence $\eta(G) = \eta(G^-) = G^-$, and we conclude that $|G| = |G^+| \cdot |G^-|$ and $G = G^- \cdot G^+$.

The fact that $G = G^+ \cdot G^-$ follows in the same way, by considering the map $g \mapsto (g^c)^{-1}g$. \square

Corollary 3.2. Suppose $G^+ \leq H \leq G$. Then $H^c = H$. If further H is normal in G , then G/H is abelian and c induces the automorphism $s \mapsto s^{-1}$ of G/H .

Proof. Suppose $h \in H$. By Lemma 3.1 we have $h = ab$ with $a \in G^-$ and $b \in G^+$. Since $G^+ \leq H$, we have $b \in H$, so $a \in H$, and therefore $h^c = a^c b^c = a^{-1}b \in H$. This proves $H^c = H$.

If H is normal, then (since $H^c = H$) c induces an automorphism of G/H . By Lemma 3.1, $G = G^- \cdot H$ so the induced automorphism sends every $s \in G/H$ to s^{-1} . Since this is a homomorphism, G/H must be abelian. \square

4. FINITE p -GROUPS WITH AN AUTOMORPHISM OF ORDER 2

Suppose for this section that p is an odd prime and G is a finite p -group with an automorphism c of order 2. Let G^+ and G^- be as in §3.

Lemma 4.1. If $G^+ \neq G$, then G has a subgroup H such that $G^+ \leq H$, $[G : H] = p$, H is normal in G , and $H^c = H$.

Proof. Let H be a maximal proper subgroup of G containing G^+ . By Theorem 1 of Chapter 6 of [DF], H is normal in G and $[G : H] = p$. By Corollary 3.2, $H^c = H$. \square

Definition 4.2. If $H \leq G$ and $H^c = H$, let

$$\Xi_H = \{\text{irreducible complex characters } \chi \text{ of } H : \chi(h^c) = \bar{\chi}(h) \text{ for every } h \in H\}.$$

Let $\mathbf{1}_{G^+}$ denote the one dimensional trivial character of G^+ .

Lemma 4.3. If $G^+ \leq H \leq G$ and $\chi \in \Xi_H$, then $\chi|_{G^+}$ contains a copy of $\mathbf{1}_{G^+}$.

Proof. (The authors thank Ralph Greenberg for suggesting this proof.) Let $\chi|_{G^+} = \sum_{\psi} n_{\psi} \psi$ be the decomposition of $\chi|_{G^+}$ into irreducible characters. By definition of Ξ_H , $\chi|_{G^+}$ is real-valued, so $\sum_{\psi} n_{\psi} \psi = \sum_{\psi} n_{\psi} \bar{\psi}$, i.e., $n_{\psi} = n_{\bar{\psi}}$. Complex conjugation acts (with orbits, of course, of size 1 or 2) on the set $\{\psi\}$ of characters that appear in this formula. Since χ is an irreducible representation of the p -group

H , $\dim(\chi)$ is a power of p and hence odd. Therefore there is (at least) one orbit $\{\psi_0\}$ of complex conjugation with size 1 and n_{ψ_0} odd, so there is an irreducible real character ψ_0 of G^+ with $n_{\psi_0} > 0$.

Since G^+ is a p -group with p odd, the only irreducible real character of G^+ is $\mathbf{1}_{G^+}$ (this can be seen by induction on the order of G , since an irreducible representation of G with real character must be trivial on the center of G). Thus $\psi_0 = \mathbf{1}_{G^+}$ is a constituent of $\chi|_{G^+}$. \square

If H is a subgroup of G , we write $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_H$ for the usual Hermitian pairing on complex characters of H .

Proposition 4.4. (i) $\text{Ind}_{G^+}^G \mathbf{1}_{G^+} = \sum_{\chi \in \Xi_G} \chi$.

(ii) If χ is an irreducible complex character of G then the following are equivalent:

- (a) $\chi \in \Xi_G$,
- (b) $\chi|_{G^+}$ contains a copy of $\mathbf{1}_{G^+}$,
- (c) $\chi|_{G^+}$ contains exactly one copy of $\mathbf{1}_{G^+}$.

Proof. By Frobenius reciprocity,

$$\text{Ind}_{G^+}^G \mathbf{1}_{G^+} = \sum_{\chi} \langle \chi, \text{Ind}_{G^+}^G \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_G \chi = \sum_{\chi} \langle \chi|_{G^+}, \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_{G^+} \chi \quad (4.1)$$

summing over all irreducible complex characters of G . Thus (i) will follow easily once we prove (ii).

Clearly (ii)(c) implies (ii)(b). By Lemma 4.3 applied with $H = G$, (ii)(a) implies (ii)(b). We will prove by induction on $[G : G^+]$ that (ii)(b) implies both (ii)(a) and (ii)(c). When $G = G^+$, if (ii)(b) holds then $\chi = \mathbf{1}_G$ so both (ii)(a) and (ii)(c) hold.

Now suppose $G \neq G^+$. By Lemma 4.1, G has a (normal) subgroup H of index p , containing G^+ , and stable under c . Fix such an H ; the proposition is true for H by our induction hypothesis.

Suppose χ is an irreducible complex character containing a copy of $\mathbf{1}_{G^+}$, i.e., satisfying (ii)(b). By (4.1), χ is a constituent of

$$\text{Ind}_{G^+}^G \mathbf{1}_{G^+} = \text{Ind}_H^G \text{Ind}_{G^+}^H \mathbf{1}_{G^+} = \sum_{\psi \in \Xi_H} \text{Ind}_H^G \psi,$$

so χ is a constituent of $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi$ for some $\psi \in \Xi_H$. Fix such a ψ , and for $s \in G/H$ let ψ^s be the character of H defined by $\psi^s(h) = \psi(s^{-1}hs)$.

Case 1: $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi$ is irreducible. Then

$$\chi(g) = (\text{Ind}_H^G \psi)(g) = \begin{cases} \sum_{s \in G/H} \psi(s^{-1}gs) & \text{if } g \in H \\ 0 & \text{if } g \notin H. \end{cases}$$

If $g \notin H$, then $g^c \notin H$ by Corollary 3.2, so $\chi(g^c) = 0 = \bar{\chi}(g)$. If $g \in H$, then (using Corollary 3.2)

$$\chi(g^c) = \sum_{s \in G/H} \psi(s^{-1}g^c s) = \sum_{s \in G/H} \psi((sgs^{-1})^c) = \sum_{s \in G/H} \bar{\psi}(sgs^{-1}) = \bar{\chi}(g)$$

so $\chi \in \Xi_G$. The multiplicity of $\mathbf{1}_{G^+}$ in $\chi|_{G^+}$ is

$$\langle \chi|_{G^+}, \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_{G^+} = \langle \chi|_H, \text{Ind}_{G^+}^H \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_H = \sum_{s \in G/H} \langle \psi^s, \text{Ind}_{G^+}^H \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_H. \quad (4.2)$$

For every $s \in G/H$, and $h \in H$,

$$\psi^s(h^c) = \psi(s^{-1}h^cs) = \psi((shs^{-1})^c) = \bar{\psi}(shs^{-1}) = \overline{\psi^{s^{-1}}}(h). \quad (4.3)$$

Since χ is irreducible, the ψ^s are pairwise non-isomorphic (Mackey's Irreducibility Criterion). In particular if $s \neq 1$, then (4.3) shows that $\psi^s \notin \Xi_H$, so by induction we have $\langle \psi^s, \text{Ind}_{G^+}^H \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_H = 0$. Hence by (4.2) (and our induction hypothesis)

$$\langle \chi|_{G^+}, \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_{G^+} = \langle \psi, \text{Ind}_{G^+}^H \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_H = 1.$$

Case 2: $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi$ is reducible. In this case $\psi^s = \psi$ for every s , $\chi|_H = \psi$, and $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi = \sum_{\omega: G/H \rightarrow \mu_p} \chi\omega$. In particular

$$\langle \chi|_{G^+}, \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_{G^+} = \langle \psi|_{G^+}, \mathbf{1}_{G^+} \rangle_{G^+} = 1$$

by our induction hypothesis.

If ρ is a character of G (or of H), let $\hat{\rho}$ be the character defined by $\hat{\rho}(g) = \bar{\rho}(g^c)$. Then

$$\sum_{\omega} \chi\omega = \text{Ind}_H^G \psi = \text{Ind}_H^G \hat{\psi} = \widehat{\text{Ind}_H^G \psi} = \sum_{\omega} \hat{\chi}\hat{\omega}.$$

It follows that $\hat{\chi} = \chi\omega$ for some character ω of G/H . Since c acts by -1 on G/H , $\hat{\omega} = \omega$, so $\chi = \hat{\chi} = \hat{\chi}\hat{\omega} = \hat{\chi}\omega = \chi\omega^2$. It follows that $\omega = 1$, so $\hat{\chi} = \chi$ and $\chi \in \Xi_G$.

Thus, no matter whether $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi$ is irreducible or reducible, (ii)(b) implies both (ii)(a) and (ii)(c). This completes the proof of the proposition. \square

Proposition 4.5. *Suppose $\chi \in \Xi_G$. Then there is a subgroup $H \leq G$ such that $H^c = H$, and a one-dimensional character $\psi \in \Xi_H$, such that $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi = \chi$.*

The proof of Proposition 4.5 will be given after the following lemmas.

Lemma 4.6. *Suppose $H < G$ with $[G : H] = p$, χ is an irreducible character of G , and $\chi(g) = 0$ if $g \notin H$. Then there are distinct irreducible characters ψ_1, \dots, ψ_p of H such that $\chi|_H = \sum_i \psi_i$ and $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi_i = \chi$ for every i .*

Proof. Decompose $\chi|_H = \sum_{\psi} n_{\psi} \psi$ into a sum over distinct irreducible characters of H , so $n_{\psi} = \langle \chi|_H, \psi \rangle_H = \langle \chi, \text{Ind}_H^G \psi \rangle_G$. Our hypothesis on χ ensures that $\text{Ind}_H^G (\chi|_H) = p\chi$, so

$$p\chi = \text{Ind}_H^G (\chi|_H) = \sum_{\psi} n_{\psi} \text{Ind}_H^G \psi. \quad (4.4)$$

Hence if $n_{\psi} > 0$ then $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi$ is a multiple of χ , so

$$\text{Ind}_H^G \psi = \langle \chi, \text{Ind}_H^G \psi \rangle_G \chi = n_{\psi} \chi. \quad (4.5)$$

By (4.4) and (4.5) we have $p\chi = \sum_{\psi} n_{\psi}^2 \chi$. The dimension of χ and each ψ is a power of p , so each n_{ψ} is a power of p , and it follows that every nonzero n_{ψ} is equal to 1. This proves the lemma. \square

Lemma 4.7. *Suppose K is a normal subgroup of G , $K \neq G$, such that $K^c = K$. Then there is a subgroup H of G containing K such that $[G : H] = p$ and $H^c = H$.*

Proof. Replacing G by G/K , it is enough to prove the lemma when $K = \{1\}$. If $G \neq G^+$, such a subgroup exists by Lemma 4.1. If $G = G^+$, then take H to be any subgroup of index p in G . \square

Lemma 4.8. *Suppose $\chi \in \Xi_G$ and $\dim(\chi) > 1$. Then there is a subgroup H of index p in G such that $H^c = H$, and a $\psi \in \Xi_H$ such that $\chi = \text{Ind}_H^G \psi$.*

Proof. Since G is a p -group, there is a subgroup H_0 of G of index p such that χ is induced from a character of H_0 (see for example [Se1] Théorème 16, §8.5). Then H_0 is normal in G , and so $\chi(g) = 0$ if $g \notin H_0$. Let K be the subgroup of G generated by $\{g \in G : \chi(g) \neq 0\}$. Then K is normal in G (since the generating set is a union of conjugacy classes), $K \neq G$ since $K \leq H_0$, and $K^c = K$ since $\chi \in \Xi_G$.

By Lemma 4.7, there is a subgroup H of index p in G , containing K , such that $H^c = H$. By Lemma 4.6 there are irreducible characters ψ_i, \dots, ψ_p of H such that $\chi|_H = \sum_i \psi_i$ and $\text{Ind}_H^G \psi_i = \chi$ for every i . We need to show that for some i , $\psi_i \in \Xi_H$.

As in the proof of Proposition 4.1, define an operator on characters of H by $\hat{\rho}(h) = \bar{\rho}(h^c)$. Then since $\chi \in \Xi_G$,

$$\sum_i \psi_i = \chi|_H = \widehat{\chi|_H} = \sum_i \hat{\psi}_i,$$

so $\rho \mapsto \hat{\rho}$ is a permutation of order 2 of $\{\psi_i, \dots, \psi_p\}$. It follows that there must be at least one orbit of size one, i.e., at least one i with $\hat{\psi}_i = \psi_i$. But then $\psi_i \in \Xi_H$. \square

Proof of Proposition 4.5. Proposition 4.5 follows immediately from Lemma 4.8 by induction. \square

5. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

Lemma 5.1. *Suppose p is an odd prime, G is a finite p -group, and V is a finite dimensional \mathbf{Q}_p -vector space on which G acts. Then for every subgroup H of G , we have $\dim_{\mathbf{Q}_p} V^H \equiv \dim_{\mathbf{Q}_p} V^G \pmod{2}$.*

Proof. Since G is nilpotent, there is a series $\{1\} = G_0 < G_1 < \dots < G_n = G$ where for every i , G_i is normal in G and $[G_{i+1} : G_i] = p$. By considering the filtration $V^G = V^{G_n H} \subseteq V^{G_{n-1} H} \subseteq \dots \subseteq V^{G_1 H} \subseteq V^H$, and letting $G_{i+1}H/G_iH$ act on $V^{G_i H}$, we can reduce the lemma to the case where $|G| = p$ and $H = \{1\}$.

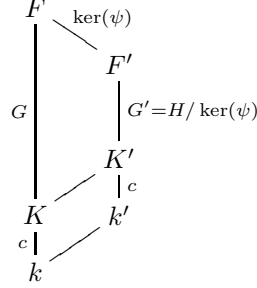
So suppose that $|G| = p$. There are only two irreducible \mathbf{Q}_p -representations of G , the trivial representation $\mathbf{1}$ and a representation ρ of dimension $p-1$. Therefore there is a $\mathbf{Q}_p[G]$ -isomorphism $V \cong \mathbf{1}^a \oplus \rho^b$ with integers $a, b \geq 0$, so $\dim_{\mathbf{Q}_p} V = a + (p-1)b$ and $\dim_{\mathbf{Q}_p} V^G = a$. Since $p-1$ is even, this completes the proof of the lemma. \square

Return now to the setting of §1: p is an odd prime, K/k is a quadratic extension of number fields, F/K is a (finite) Galois p -extension, F/k is Galois, $G = \text{Gal}(F/K)$, $c \in \text{Gal}(F/k)$ has order 2, and we also denote by c the automorphism $g \mapsto g^c := cgc$. We will use the results of §4 to reduce the proof of Theorem 1.1 to Theorem 7.1 of [MR].

Theorem 5.2. *Suppose that the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 are satisfied. Fix an embedding of \mathbf{Q}_p into \mathbf{C} and let ρ be the (complex) character of G acting on $S_p(E/F)$. Then for every $\chi \in \Xi_G$, the multiplicity of χ in ρ satisfies*

$$\langle \chi, \rho \rangle_G \equiv \text{rk}_p(E/K) \pmod{2}.$$

Proof. Fix an irreducible character $\chi \in \Xi_G$. By Proposition 4.5, there is a subgroup H of G with $H^c = H$ and a one-dimensional character $\psi \in \Xi_H$ such that $\chi = \text{Ind}_H^G \psi$. Let $K' = F^H$, $k' = (K')^{c=1}$, $F' = F^{\ker(\psi)}$, and $G' = \text{Gal}(F'/K') = H/\ker(\psi)$ as in the following diagram:



Then K'/k' is a quadratic extension, F'/k' is Galois, F'/K' is cyclic, and (since $\psi \in \Xi_H$) c acts on $\text{Gal}(F'/K')$ by -1 . We will apply Theorem 7.1 of [MR] to the dihedral extension F'/k' . In order to do that, we need to show that $\text{rk}_p(E/K')$ is odd and the primes of k' dividing p and those where E has bad reduction satisfy the hypotheses of that theorem.

We have $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)^G = \mathcal{S}_p(E/K)$ and $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)^H = \mathcal{S}_p(E/K')$. By Lemma 5.1 there is a congruence modulo 2

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{rk}_p(E/K') &= \dim_{\mathbf{Q}_p} \mathcal{S}_p(E/F)^H \equiv \dim_{\mathbf{Q}_p} \mathcal{S}_p(E/F)^G \\
 &= \text{rk}_p(E/K) \pmod{2} \quad (5.1)
 \end{aligned}$$

so if $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd, then $\text{rk}_p(E/K')$ is odd.

If a prime v of k splits in K , then (since p is odd) every prime of k' above v splits in K'/k' . If v is a prime of k that is unramified in F/K , then every prime of k' above k is unramified in F'/K' . If v is a prime of k where E has good reduction, then E has good reduction (and the same reduction type) at every prime of k' above v .

It follows that the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 for $(E, F/K/k)$ imply the hypotheses of Theorem 7.1 of [MR] for $(E, F'/K'/k')$. Thus by Theorem 7.1(ii) of [MR] we have

$$\langle \psi', \rho' \rangle_{G'} \equiv \text{rk}_p(E/K') \pmod{2} \quad (5.2)$$

where ψ' is the character of $G' = H/\ker(\psi)$ whose inflation to H is ψ , and ρ' is the character of G' acting on $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F') = \mathcal{S}_p(E/F)^{\ker(\psi)}$. We also have

$$\langle \chi, \rho \rangle_G = \langle \text{Ind}_H^G \psi, \rho \rangle_G = \langle \psi, \rho|_H \rangle_H = \langle \psi', \rho' \rangle_{G'}. \quad (5.3)$$

Together (5.1), (5.2) and (5.3) prove the theorem. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Note that $\text{Ind}_{G^+}^G \mathbf{1}_{G^+}$ is the character of the $\mathbf{C}[G]$ -representation $\mathbf{C}[G/G^+]$. Therefore by Proposition 4.4(i), the irreducible (complex) constituents of $\mathbf{C}[G/G^+]$ are exactly the characters $\chi \in \Xi_G$, each with multiplicity one. Thus Theorem 1.1(ii) follows directly from Theorem 5.2.

Suppose now that $\text{rk}_p(E/K)$ is odd, and let ρ be the character of G acting on $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)$, as in Theorem 5.2. Then by Theorem 5.2, $\langle \chi, \rho \rangle_G \geq 1$ for every $\chi \in \Xi_G$. Therefore ρ contains a copy of $\sum_{\chi \in \Xi_G} \chi$, which is equal to $\text{Ind}_{G^+}^G \mathbf{1}_{G^+}$ by Proposition

4.4(i), so $\mathcal{S}_p(E/F)$ contains a copy of $\mathbf{Q}_p[G/G^+]$ and $\mathrm{rk}_p(E/F) \geq [G : G^+]$. This is (i). \square

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